

## NORTH CAROLINA.

## GREAT UNION MEETING AT THE CAPITAL.

**Speeches and Resolutions—Manifesto of W. W. Holden—Walking Up.**

From Our Special Correspondent.

RALEIGH, N. C., May 11, 1865.

To-day inaugurates the effort of the people of the capital of the old North State to return to the embrace of the Union, after the lessons taught by four years of devastating war. Like the passengers and crew of a shipwrecked vessel assembled upon the strand and going over the ocean where their noble ship went down, here are met a few of the representatives of the old Union, who briefly struggled with the storm of Secession four years ago, purged, polished spontaneously at the fire and brases to keep the old ship afloat, when the hand played "Hail Columbia."

**SPEECH OF HON. W. W. HOLDEN.**  
Followers of the General Lee, & others of the United States of America, for whom we thank that we see this day, we are above the counterfeiting fields of that nation, who have won the right to be called the sons of Union which grew up in the days of old, and to-day we greet our fellowmen from all parts of our once happy land. From the broad waters of the Mississippi, from the shores of the far Pacific and from the rocky coast of New England. We feel through our limbs the joyful glow of three years of freedom, and the Union we gainst us. The joyous enthusiasm of our people upon the questions then forbidding the great struggle which has deluged the land with blood. A citizen asked him what he would do with the man who should vote to dissolve the Union. His answer rang out to the farthest verge of the vast crowd, "I would hang him, hang him, high as Haman." The sentiment was received with shouts of approbation.

On the 20th of May, 1861, the Anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, 1776, the same bell which now rings to assemble the people to rejoice over peace and a restored Union, called together the convention upon this spot, which unanimously passed the Executive Ordinance of Secession, and with it the Bill which made North Carolina a member of the provisional Government of the Confederate States.

The meeting to-day is remarkable for the absence of every prominent, wealthy representative of the dominant class in the State. Among the 150 North Carolinians around the stand, I see no citizens of Raleigh, only a few poor but honest farmers from the surrounding country, who have brought themselves in a hasty coach, and have come to say all the meeting is strength. No minister leads the suction of its press or offers up thanksgiving for deliverance from the scourge of war. Even the Mayor, who should have presided, though well enough to walk about town, was too poorly to attend and preside. By the aid of the Union soldiers and the assistance of a good band of music, contributed by Col. Granger, commandant of the post, the meeting was responsible in size, and from small and timid beginnings steadily increased in interest to its close.

The colored people, the only citizens of Raleigh present attending, staid respectfully in the rear of the stand, where Stever placed them two centuries ago. Prof. Hoddick stood there also, and was not even invited upon the stand, much less to make a speech. Upon calling attention to the fact, the Chairman of the meeting told me "he was particularly objectionable to our people."

The speakers at the meeting were all or nearly all in some way connected with the State Government before, and each had a story of his own sufferings and martyrdom to relate during the terrible ordeal of war. The principal speech of the occasion was by W. W. Holden, the expectant candidate for Governor under the restored Union. His speech was clever, dexterous, of the authors of the war, but short and careful upon the only vital question he should have taken in hand—the future of the great laboring class—the freed people of the State. Like a man walking among ours, he timidly picked his way through this question, talked nonsense for half an hour about the wise forecast and statesmanship of Clay in his *coercionist* *course*, and the prospect of the extinction of this fortunate class unless they have the sympathy and support (of) the whites—the great and noble Anglo-Saxon race, which is to occupy not alone this broad continent but all the islands, inlets, bays, and rivers of the world.

N. R.—The African M. E. Church in Raleigh is the only one which has made any decent outward manifestation of sorrow at the assassination of the President. But to the meeting, Mr. W. R. Richardson called the meeting to order, and nominated a list of officers. Maj. Russ. Secretary of State under the first administration of Vance, was the President of the meeting, and he fulfilled the duties of his position well. He had been an uncompromising conservative Union man from the first when it was as much a man's life was worth to be such. The devastation of the South by this war made his heart bleed. He thanked God he was once more disenchanted, and that we stood under the shadow of the glorious old stars and stripes which was destined never again to depart from North Carolina. He knew what it was to suffer for his principles. Therefore he could never make a speech but some white-livered detective stood at his back to report what he said. He thanked God that every freeman, however humble, had lived to see this day when he could speak out undeterred by threats or Confederate bayonets.

After the surrender of Gen. Lee (a good and brave man) every life sacrificed was a murder; every outrage of whatever kind was to be laid at the door of the Rebel leaders; they were responsible for it. In the beginning he said the war would destroy the negro property. He had lost all he had, and those white-livered scoundrels are responsible. He did not charge our Yankee friends with this. He surrendered this cheerfully to get rid of the detestable tyranny. The secessionists could not be found. They were dropping off like termites of a log. In the language of Andrew Johnson he would say treason was a crime and ought to be punished. He had no unkind feelings toward the poor people who had been forced into this war, but the leaders would have punished. He excused the slim attendance of the people from a distance on the ground that they had been stripped of their horses and could not ride. [An apology that would hardly answer for the people living around the capital.—R.R.]

The band played the "Star Spangled Banner." The Committee on Resolutions, through their Chairman, G. Randolph Thomas, Secretary of State, reported the following resolutions, which Mr. Thomas supported in a vigorous and manly speech. He urged that the State should as soon as possible resolve that Slavery should no longer exist upon the soil, and thus get rid of the greatest and only cause of disturbance in the country. He thanked the soldiers that they had preserved to North Carolina the institutions of our fathers, and prayed that God would preserve the blessings of peace, happiness and contentment to millions yet unborn. The speech was a good one, and was received with cheers.

**RESOLUTIONS.**  
Resolved, That we hold with the sense of satisfaction and pleasure the termination of the rebellion in the Southern States, by which North Carolina is enabled to enjoy again the blessing of peace and liberty under the Constitution and the Union.

Resolved, That in addition to the grateful感激 which we owe to the Union for having secured our independence, we deeply regret my inability to comply with your request. If it were possible for me to do so without a most culpable neglect of my duty and conscience, I would give you great pleasure to be with you and to participate in your proceedings. I hope that all of our people have sufficiently seen the folly and madness of secession, and that enough time has elapsed since the decision of the large portion by the march of the armies has placed the whole people in a condition of hunger and ruin, from which alone they could be rescued by patient industry, courage and hope, with the assistance of their more fortunate friends of the Northern States.

The speaker went on to deplore the conduct of the rebels, and the want of self-government in the country. He said the rebels had been compelled to act like savages, and to commit outrages upon the people of North Carolina, their women and children, and to burn their homes and property. He looked to the people of North Carolina, of Virginia and Tennessee, at the proper time, to rally and wisely to defend the States, and fix the relations of this unfortunate race, &c.

Mr. Holden closed his speech with the recital of the financial ruin the war had brought upon the country, seven millions of debt contracted before the war, and forty millions of State and County debts since, all the money being raised by taxation, and to meet their obligations the State has been compelled to sell its slaves except those held in trust for the State, which it has done.

The expression of this feeling in primary modes of speech, people in this state are eminently right and proper, and it will be well for such meetings to be held, as is usual in public opinion has been expressed in the different cities and towns of the State, which the General Government in its efforts to sustain law and order, and the State may take its place in the Union, the restoration of which will be secured to us and transmitted to our posterity.

Resolved, That we acknowledge the necessity and policy of retaining a military force in the State until a civil government is put in operation, and the combined resistance and purpose to renew the Union, and to uphold the Constitution and laws of our country.

Yours with much respect, &c.

JOHN POOL  
To Messrs. J. P. H. Rugg, W. H. RICHARDSON, and others.

the same to be by assembling a Convention of the people in the City of Raleigh, as early as practicable.

Resolved, That we approve the plan of the Freedmen's Bureau, and will aid him so far as we can to effect its objects in North Carolina, that the rebellion may be made obnoxious, a just and benevolent course of action adopted, and the legitimate authority of the State maintained, and that general protection given to persons and property, and general care given to the people and preserving the inalienable rights and privileges to be derived by the freed men and negroes.

Resolved, That we will do all we can to assist and help to the extent of our power, the efforts of the freed men and negroes to secure their rights and welfare, and to the end that they may be educated, and to the end that they may be made fit for the service of the country.

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